

B.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A collective procurement management system comprising:

~~at least one purchaser terminal;~~

~~at least one supplier terminal;~~

a processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing a plurality of processing instructions that enable the processor to:

~~purchase request processing means for accepting~~ receive a plurality of purchase requests request from a plurality of potential purchasers ~~through said at least one purchaser terminal,~~ each purchase request including a purchase price for an item;

~~purchase request grouping means for selectively grouping~~ group said plurality of purchase requests, based on the item, to create into a collective procurement order; and

~~collective procurement fulfillment means for effecting~~ fulfill said collective procurement order ~~such that said plurality of purchase requests are fulfilled~~ with respect to each of said ~~potential~~ plurality of purchasers, based on each requested purchase price.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, said memory further comprising an inventory database, ~~said inventory database~~ including a listing of at least one ~~product or service~~ item available for purchase ~~through said collective procurement management system by the~~ plurality of purchasers.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein ~~said purchase request~~ grouping means selectively the processor groups each purchase requests request according to specific product class based on a similar item requested by the plurality of purchasers.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein ~~said purchase request~~ grouping means selectively the processor groups each purchase requests request such that purchase requests are only grouped if such the purchase requests specify the same product or service item.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the ~~completion of a the~~ processor fulfills the collective procurement order is ~~subject to a said if the~~ plurality of purchase requests satisfying satisfy at least one threshold condition.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ said threshold condition requires purchase requests by including a minimum number of ~~potential purchasers prior to the~~ completion of a in the collective procurement order.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ said threshold condition ~~requires purchase requests resulting in~~ including a minimum quantity of ~~products~~ requested items ~~prior to the completion of a~~ in the collective procurement order.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ said threshold condition ~~requires purchase requests resulting in~~ including a minimum total order price ~~prior to the completion of a~~ for the collective procurement order, the total order price based on the plurality of purchase prices and a number of requested items in the collective procurement order.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A method for fulfilling a collective procurement order between at least one supplier and a plurality of purchasers, the method comprising the steps of:  
[accepting] receiving a plurality of purchase requests request from said each of a plurality of purchasers, the purchase request including a purchase price for an identified item;  
~~accepting at least one~~ receiving a supply commitment from said at least one supplier for the identified item;  
selectively grouping said plurality of purchase requests, based on said identified item to create a collective procurement order; and

fulfilling said collective procurement order between said at least one supplier and said plurality of purchasers, based on each purchase price received from each of the plurality of purchasers.

Claim 11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said collective procurement order is fulfilled by a plurality of suppliers, each of said suppliers fulfilling a portion of said collective procurement order.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~wherein said selective grouping and said fulfillment of said collective procurement order is 10, said fulfilling further comprising:~~ dependent upon the receipt and acceptance of purchase requests resulting in fulfilling the collective procurement order only if a minimum total quantity of products the identified item is ordered from the plurality of purchase requests.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein said selective grouping and said fulfillment of said collective procurement order is dependent upon the receipt and acceptance of purchase requests resulting from fulfilling further comprising:~~ fulfilling said collective procurement order only if a minimum number of purchasers are grouped.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein said selective grouping and said fulfillment of said collective procurement order is dependent upon the receipt and acceptance of purchase requests resulting in~~ fulfilling further comprising:

fulfilling the collective procurement order only if a minimum total order price is established for the collective procurement order, based on the plurality of purchase requests.

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Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said purchase requests ~~submitted by each of~~ price received from each of said multiple purchasers ~~comprise multiple fulfillment levels indicative of multiple~~ includes a plurality of prices, acceptable to each said purchaser price corresponding to different quantities of the identified item in the purchase request.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising: ~~wherein said each of said suppliers specify multiple fulfillment levels indicative of multiple prices~~  
receiving at least one acceptable price from the at least one supplier, each acceptable price corresponding to a total quantity of the identified item in the collective procurement order to each of said suppliers.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, ~~wherein~~ each said purchaser purchase request specifies a price and specifying at least one additional purchase condition term in connection with ~~said purchase request~~ the identified item.

Claims 20 - 31. (Cancelled)

Claim 32. (Currently amended) A collective procurement management system comprising:

~~at least one purchaser terminal;~~

~~at least one supplier terminal;~~

a processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing a plurality of processing instructions that enable the processor to:

~~supply offer processing means for accepting~~ receive a plurality of supply offers ~~offer~~ from a plurality of potential suppliers, through said ~~at least one supplier terminal~~ each supply offer including a supplier price for a quantity of an item;

~~supply offer grouping means for selectively grouping~~ group said plurality of supply offers to create a collective supply offer; and

receive, from at least one purchaser, a separate purchase request having a purchase price and a desired quantity of the item; and

~~collective order fulfillment means for effecting~~ fulfill said collective supply offer ~~such that said plurality of supply offers are fulfilled with respect to one or more potential purchasers~~ the at least one purchaser, based on each said supply price and purchase price.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 32 further comprising an inventory database, ~~said inventory database~~ including an indication of at least one ~~product or service item~~ available for purchase ~~through said collective procurement management system~~ by said at least one purchaser from said at least one supplier.

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Claim 34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the processor groups said supply offer ~~grouping means selectively groups supply offers according to specific product~~ class based on said item being offered.

Claim 35. (Cancelled)



Claim 36. (Currently amended) A method for completing collective procurement management system orders, comprising:

~~at least one purchaser terminal further comprising an Internet browser application wherein a potential purchaser may initiate a purchase request by selecting an icon located on an Internet web page associated with a product or service;~~

~~purchase request processing means for accepting a plurality of receiving a purchase requests request from each of a plurality of potential purchasers, the purchase request including a purchase price and a quantity of an item through said at least one purchaser terminal;~~

~~purchase request grouping means for selectively grouping said plurality of purchase requests to create into a collective procurement order, based on the requested item;~~

~~collective procurement fulfillment means for effecting said completing the collective procurement order such that said plurality of purchase requests are fulfilled with respect to each of said potential purchasers purchase price.~~

Claim 37. (Currently amended) The system method of claim 36, ~~wherein said at least one purchaser purchase request including~~ may specify at least one additional purchase criteria.

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The system method of claim 36, further comprising: ~~wherein a user is notified~~ notifying at least one purchaser of a pending purchase group collective procurement order based upon profile information of the at least one user.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The system method of claim 36, further comprising:  
means for indicating the identifying, to the at least one supplier, a number of potential purchasers  
purchase requests forming said purchase request group at a particular point in time collective  
procurement order, wherein said supply price is based on the number of purchase requests, said  
completing further comprising:

completing the collective procurement order based on each purchase price  
and the seller price.

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Claim 40. (Currently amended) The system method of claim 36, further comprising:  
means for indicating the notifying the plurality of purchasers of an amount of time remaining  
prior to the a closing of a purchase request group the collective procurement order.


Claim 41. (Cancelled)

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Claim 42. (New) The system of claim 2, said plurality of purchasers comprising at least  
two purchasers providing different purchase prices.

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Claim 43. (New) The system of claim 2, said processor further enabled to:  
receive a supply price from at least one supplier of the item, wherein the  
processor fulfills said collective procurement order based on at least one of: the supply price and  
each purchase price.

Claim 44. (New) The method of claim 10, said plurality of purchasers comprising at least two purchasers providing different purchase prices.

 Claim 45. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a supply price for the item from the at least one supplier, said fulfilling further including:

fulfilling said collective procurement order based on the supply price and each purchase price.

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